

## **“The UN Security Council and the Development of International Surveillance Law“**

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*The rapid expansion of surveillance technologies—from biometric identification and digital interception tools to AI-enhanced data analytics—poses significant challenges to existing legal frameworks at the international, regional, and domestic levels. While no comprehensive body of ‘international surveillance law’ yet exists, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has increasingly shaped state practice in this domain through its resolutions, counterterrorism mandates, guidelines, and other soft law instruments. This research project is the first to provide a comprehensive empirical analysis of UNSC resolutions regulating surveillance powers from 9/11 2001 to 2025. Our novel dataset systematically analyses hundreds of resolutions, extracting UNSC requirements and recommendations aimed at states and UN bodies. Our findings identify changes in the focus of UNSC resolutions over the years and in different contexts, and recognise concrete legal requirements, including obligations relating to information-sharing, border screening, financial monitoring, and the use of advanced identification technologies. Using both quantitative and qualitative methods, our analysis recognises the significance of UNSC resolutions as drivers of global norm development, and contributes to the development of a holistic and comprehensive body of international surveillance law.*